

men attempted to rally sufficiently to counter attack, but these hastily organized and feeble attempts at resistance were brushed aside by the onrushing allied soldiers.

British cavalry and whippet tanks pursued the fleeing Germans east of Cambrai, and it was all that horses and machine guns could do to keep up with their quarry. Allied infantrymen at numerous places along the line lost all contact with the enemy.

At the southern end of the battle front the French continued to gain east of the Oise River. Allied progress in these sectors is slower on account of the more determined resistance. Despite this the French continued to forge ahead and menace the enemy hold on La Fere and Lian.

The Allies have gained many points of strategic advantage as a result of the enemy's precipitate flight. In the north, near Douai, the British are only twelve miles from Valenciennes, which is reported to be a key point in the enemy's "next line" of defense. Immediately east of Lens the British pressed forward, further extending their encircling movement around Lille.

In the Argonne region the French and Americans continued their advance last night and to-day. On the eastern side of the Argonne the men under Gen. Pershing pushed further northward, while to the west of that river, in conjunction with the French, they have almost succeeded in driving the enemy out of the Argonne forest.

Reports concerning the condition in which the retreating Germans left Cambrai are divergent. One of the correspondents says the British armies telegraphed that the damage was found to be less than expected, and of such a nature that it could be repaired. Another correspondent, with the Canadian corps, reports that the town had practically been leveled to the ground by the explosives set off by the fleeing enemy.

The British and French artillery is being moved eastward as fast as possible, but despite all efforts it has been impossible to get the guns close enough to reach the fleeing Germans.

REAR GUARDS PUT UP STRONG RESISTANCE

Main Body of Enemy, However, Flees Rapidly.

By the Associated Press.

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When the men were long foodless and almost wholly without ammunition and when many were weak from exhaustion but not one despairing, an American who had been hidden in the forest suddenly appeared at the little camp surrounded in the valley.

The man had been sent blindfolded from the German headquarters in a typewritten note to Major Whittlesy, reading:

"Americans, you are surrounded on all sides. Surrender in the name of humanity. You will be treated."

Major Whittlesy did not hesitate a fraction of a second.

"Go to hell!" he almost shouted. Then he read the note to those around him, and his men, despite their weariness and hunger and in imminent danger every moment, cheered so loudly that the Germans heard them from their observation posts.

None of the battalion could know that relief could come within twenty-four hours; none felt very sure that it could come at all before it was too late, but the same spirit animating them to plunge ahead in the forest to their perilous position maintained them at that moment, and every living man, wounded or well, in the battalion enthusiastically approved Major Whittlesy's abrupt answer when the news of it was circulated through the position.

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A composite story gleaned from a dozen reliable sources reveals that the battalion when ordered to advance last Friday pushed its way rapidly ahead through the forest, and in its eagerness to catch up with the retreating Germans, gradually spread out and widened its ranks. This allowed the Germans to infiltrate unseen behind the Americans and then fell directly into a cunning trap which the Germans had set for them.

The enemy had planned to catch the Americans in a hollow surrounded on all four sides by heights, the greatest of which was a steep hill directly ahead. The Americans, who were not accustomed to forest fighting and were with eagerness, dashed into this hollow without stopping to think that the enemy might be waiting there. The members of the battalion were at first checked by their own artillery barrage, which had worked steadily forward.

Nevertheless it did not work as fast as the troops themselves and the battalions had hoped. They were halted and there they waited for the barrage to pass in front of them. Then they discovered that the Germans on both sides had jointly flanked them and had closed upon their rear.

Sheltered only by shallow and hastily constructed trenches, the men were subjected to a grilling sniping machine gun fire as well as a trench mortar bombardment every time they showed themselves. Only with the greatest difficulty and with extreme caution could they escape from the place and keep guard against surprise attacks.

The battalion had started with meagre rations expecting more to reach them later. They could not no longer be transported to them. It was the greatest good fortune that they were fairly supplied with water.

Eighty and daily, too, they sent back volunteer scouting parties, but if these reached the positions in the rear without being captured or killed they could not tell for none every returned.

Dared Not Show Themselves.

Daily American aviators, searching vainly for them, flew overhead, but no outcry the men could make brought anything but the sniping of about a dozen bullets. If a man made an unusual noise trench mortars pounded the vicinity viciously.

Just for diversion the enemy made a practice of sweeping the whole terrain—the hillside where the improvised trenches were located and the valley in which the men were cowering—to get the water regularly and then irregularly with machine guns.

Snipers were constantly on watch. German 22 pointed the light, and hand grenades also were hourly in evidence. The Americans had no rockets or other signals, and they were powerless to attract the attention of any one but the Germans.

As the days passed the Americans grew more and more emaciated and more and more bearded, but they never gave up hope. There was a method in their determination to hold out until the last man was finished. There was not a man in the battalion, wounded or otherwise, hungry or starved, but he was ready for surrender. Their ammunition was depleted to a point where the few machine guns in the outfit had but one belt of cartridges apiece, and the rifle ammunition was running so short that they had received orders not to fire at any one attacking until within such short range that the shot or serious injury was almost inevitable.

Major Whittlesy, who is a well known New Yorker, had his entire battalion behind him to a man. Capt. Leo Stronach of San Bernardino, Cal., told the Associated Press his men were at the idea of surrender, and the men who came out of the forest and he is unwilling to clarify that they never would have given up.

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THE victorious British and French troops continued their pursuit of the fleeing Germans all along the northern part of the battle front yesterday, meeting resistance at some points and at others marching unopposed into what a few hours previously was enemy territory. The British cavalry penetrated to the east of Le Cateau and infantrymen followed in column formation, as though marching in a parade. At Bohain the Germans rallied sufficiently to launch a counter attack, but this was soon broken up by the British.

Further south, east of St. Quentin, the French continued to push eastward, being now within striking distance of the Oise River. Every hour of their advance imperils the Germans, who are still holding the St. Gobain massif. As soon as the French have time to haul up their artillery the enemy hold on Laon and La Fere will be broken.

Allied military critics believe the German commanders are allowing their pride to get the better of their judgment in clinging as they do to the great salient of which the St. Gobain massif is the apex. A further French advance of a few miles will not only wrest these positions from the Germans, but will make it exceedingly difficult for them to get out alive.

OFFICIAL REPORTS OF THE FIGHTING. PERSHING REPORTS NEW GAINS BY ARMY

LONDON, Oct. 10.—Following are the official reports of operations in France and Belgium as issued by the several War Offices:

BRITISH (NIGHT).—At dawn this morning the British were resuming along the whole battle front. At all points rapid progress was made in spite of the efforts of the enemy's rear guard to hold up the advance.

Our troops approaching the large woods east of Bohain have entered Vaux-Andagny. North of that place we have reached the general line of the Scheldt River from St. Souplet to the neighborhood of Solesmes and have captured Le Cateau.

West of Solesmes we captured Avesnes and Rieux and then St. Martin.

West of the Scheldt Canal we have taken Etrun.

In the towns and villages captured in our advance to-day numbers of civilians have been found, including 2,500 in the town of Cauchy.

Southeast of Lens our troops have made further progress and have captured Rouvroy.

BRITISH (DAY).—We continued to advance yesterday and yesterday evening in the face of increasing resistance, and early in the night advanced detachments established themselves across the Cambrai-La Cateau road, within two miles of Le Cateau.

Fighting is taking place south of the main road on both sides of Cauchy, and also east of Cambrai, where we have made progress.

In the sector between the Scarpe and the Aisne the French are in touch with the enemy west of the general line of Vitry-en-Artois, Asnelles-Equerchin and Rouvroy. We have gained possession of Sallam mines and Noyelles.

FRENCH (DAY).—During the night the pursuit of the enemy continued to the east of St. Quentin, the French occupying the Bois Landrinot and passing beyond Beaureux and Fontaine-Notre Dame.

North of the Aisne the French pressed the enemy with vigor in the region east of Oisel. French troops hold the Plateau de Croix-sans-Tete. They crossed the Aisne Canal further east in the region of Villers-en-Pray.

In the Champagne an attack vigorously carried out has enabled us to capture Liry and make prisoners.

GERMAN (NIGHT).—Enemy attacks failed in front of our new positions on the battle front east of Cambrai and St. Quentin, as well as on both banks of the Meuse.

GERMAN (DAY).—On the battle front between Cambrai and St. Quentin the enemy has enabled us to capture Liry and make prisoners.

Southeast of Cambrai, by means of a successful counter attack, supported by tanks which on the evening of October 8 put us in possession of Seran-

UPTON BATTALION SPURNS SURRENDER

New York Men, Beleguered in Argonne, Cheer Their Major's Refusal.

TRAPPED FOR FOUR DAYS

Nearly Starved and Out of Ammunition, They Waited Death or Rescue.

By the Associated Press.

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AMERICANS IN WAR'S GREATEST AIR RAID

More Than 850 Machines Bomb Cantonments 12 Miles North of Verdun.

AIR NAVY NEARLY READY

Operation Preliminary to Attacks for Penetrating as Far as Berlin Itself.

By the Associated Press.

WITH THE AMERICAN FORCES NORTHWEST OF VERDUN, Oct. 10.—An American bombing expedition consisting of more than 850 machines dropped thirty-two tons of explosives yesterday on German cantonments 12 miles north of Verdun. The German towns of Wailly and Damvilliers, about twelve miles north of Verdun.

The American bombing exploit marks one of the high points in the air operations of the war. In the expedition were more than 800 bombing airplanes, 100 pursuit machines and fifty triplanes.

The bombing machines got splendid protection during the aerial battle which took place during the operation. Twelve enemy machines were shot down. Only one German plane failed to return.

In addition American airplanes destroyed or brought down yesterday five German machines and one triplane. The Americans also took a number of photographs and dropped newspapers to the German troops.

There was intense aerial activity over the whole of the American front yesterday. Lieut. Irwin and Eastbrook, while on a liaison mission, encountered a Boche plane near Epernay and forced it to retire a few minutes later they met a German triplane and a monoplane over Varennes and drove the biplane down out of control.

The Americans next encountered two biplanes and forced them to retire. Starting on again they met a biplane, which they engaged and crashed. The Americans then continued the mission of locating a certain unit. Returning home they fought a big Haverstradt but without final decision.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 10.—Word of the first great American air raid against the German cantons north of Verdun sent a thrill through the United States yesterday, although no official report of details had been received.

So far as could be learned, however, the participation of 850 machines in the one enterprise marks it as the greatest air offensive yet undertaken on the western front in point of number of machines employed. No record could be discovered here to-night showing either allied or German bombing raids on anything like a similar scale.

No official comment could be obtained pending the receipt of formal advice. There is every reason to suppose, however, that a considerable portion of the bombing planes used were De Havilland bombers, built in the United States and equipped with Liberty motors. Shipments of these machines to France have now reached considerable proportions, and recent purchases from France have been encouraging.

Triplanes Must Be French.

The language of the account of the raid permitted to the American military censor, is taken here to indicate that the operation was a joint enterprise, with French and possibly British airplanes aiding in the protection of the Americans. The reference to fifty triplanes included in this great air fleet found no explanation here. If they were operated by American pilots they are French built machines, and no details of the equipment obtained abroad by Gen. Pershing have been released for publication.

The fact that only thirty-two tons of bombs were dropped by such a force struck some air service officers as surprising. The ordinary bomb capacity of a fleet of the kind described for such a short trip probably would be ten times that weight of explosives, it was said.

The most significant feature of the first great American raid, outside of its

possible place in the great strategic game that is being played on the western front, is the fact that it indicates the United States now has taken its full place beside the Allies in the air as well as on land and sea. The bombing squadrons which made up this fleet probably represent the first definite American unit of major importance in the independent air forces which are being built up by the Entente Powers. The British and French Governments now officially describe these bombing operations as the work of this independent force.

What is meant is the navy of the air that is to be expanded until no part of Germany shall be safe from the rain of bombs. It is a thing apart from the fighting, observation and bombing squadrons attached to the various army corps which were in close cooperation with the troops on attack or defense. The work of the independent force is bombing munition works, factories, cities and other important centers behind the German lines. It has been specifically promised that eventually Berlin itself will know what an air raid means, and the whole great project is

a direct answer to the German air attacks upon helpless and unprotected British and French cities and Belgian towns.

Another striking point concerning the size of the American raiding fleet is that it is only the first American blow from the air in this campaign. The very size of that force is a guarantee of the overwhelming dimensions of the American air fleets that will come in time.

SIBERIAN BOOTY HUGL.

Five Steamships and Other War Utilities Taken by Allies.

By the Associated Press.

TOKYO, Oct. 3 (delayed).—The Japanese War Office announced today that the booty captured by the allied forces in the Amur district of Siberia from September 15 and September 22 included five steamships, thirty cars, five automobiles, 512 rifles, one machine gun, seven cases of ammunition and thousands of bayonets and knives.

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